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REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES.

TENNEY'S ELEMENTS OF ZOOLOGY.*—This is a profusely illustrated book, of convenient size and well adapted by its simple style for instruction in schools. It is a decided improvement in matter and illustration on the "Manual of Zoology" by the same author, as more attention is bestowed to anatomy and histology; this portion being illustrated by well selected engravings, mostly taken from Milne-Edward's "Zoology."

MICROSCOPY.

THE "REFLEX ILLUMINATOR" FOR DIRECT ILLUMINATION.—Mr. Samuel Wells, of Boston, communicates to the "Cincinnati Medical News," his experience with Mr. Wenham's last illuminator, used upon transparent objects with transmitted light. Of course to obtain the direct effect the object must be mounted in balsam or other highly.refractive medium, and the illuminator connected with the slide with glycerine or otherwise. The lens must be an immersion, and over 82° of working angular aperture, since nothing under 41° of semi-aperture can be lighted by this arrangement. Mr. Wells, among a large number of lenses, found only four capable of working with light at this angle,—a Powell & Lealand $\frac{1}{16}$, Tolles' $\frac{1}{10}$, and Tolles' four system $\frac{1}{6}$ and $\frac{1}{10}$. All these are famous resolving lenses, and their performance with this light is described as remarkably beautiful. An exactly similar use of the Wenham Paraboloid has been a favorite method of high-power illumination (differing only in angle and in not being limited to an unilateral effect) and gives the same exquisite definition with a perfectly corrected objective, though failing entirely with many objectives that are called first class.

RELIABILITY OF THE MICROSCOPE.—Mr. John Michels paper in "Popular Science Monthly," on the Microscope and its Misinterpretations, mainly by virtue of its title, largely contributes to an exaggerated popular estimate of the general untruthfulness of microscope teachings. The paper itself is a good popular synopsis of the Podura scale controversy, but has about the same relation to the general credibility of microscopical science that a dispute about some confessedly difficult double star would have to the science of astronomy. Experience is suggested as a safeguard, and so are high powers, which are of undisputed value notwithstanding that they chiefly, if not only, are liable to serious danger of misinterpretation. The necessity of corroboration of results in important cases by different observers is urged, to which the editor of the "Technologist" adds that varied methods of preparation are a stronger confirmation than a number of observers.

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*Elements of Zoology. A Text Book. By Prof. Sanborn Tenney. Illustrated by 750 wood engravings. New York: Scribner, Armstrong & Co. 1875.

A CONCENTRATED METHOD OF MOUNTING.—Mr. C. H. Robinson, of Cleaveland, contributes to the "Postal Micro-cabinet Club," a slide illustrating a method of mounting where the space under a single large cover-glass is occupied by a considerable number of small circles with an object in each. He makes the circles of white zinc varnish, and sometimes adds a circle to the edge of the cover-glass as a finish. This method of mounting, the appearance of which is decidedly handsome, is particularly applicable to displaying several varieties of one species (as of selected diatoms or of foraminifera) on one slide, or to presenting in contrast different methods of preparing the same species.

NOTES.

WE noticed, in our last, that an Ohio State Association of Archæologists had been formed, and we now have to record the organization of similar State Associations in Indiana and Tennessee. These State Associations will be of great benefit if they result in the establishment of permanent museums of Archæology at the several capitals and foster careful research. It is also greatly to be hoped that they will take action at once in relation to the preservation of some of the most important of the ancient earthworks of the west and south.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

Arrangements have been made by which Messrs. H. O. Houghton & Co., will become the publishers of the *American Naturalist*, beginning with Vol. X, 1876. Farther announcements will be made in our next number. Subscriptions for Volume X should accordingly be sent to H. O. Houghton & Co., Boston, Mass.